

The Daily Charge

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Telling the MND-Baghdad Story

Friday, Feb. 2, 2007



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Yummy!

Menomonee, Wis., native Pvt. Cary Bell, a medic with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hands out candy to children during a medical operation in Baghdad's Ghazaliya district Jan. 30. Bell's company occupies a Combat Outpost (COP) with Iraqi Army soldiers in the area to provide increased security and responsiveness to the neighborhood.

Wounded Soldiers honored at ceremony

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Killeen Daily Herald

FORT HOOD - Spc. Dortrie A. Jones can't wait to go dancing again. He went to a club last Sunday in San Antonio and got a taste of what he's been missing.

Jones busted a few moves Jan. 30 in the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center to show just how good he is - and he

is good.

He's just waiting for doctors at Brooke Army Medical Center to remove the hard cast from his left foot and fit his right leg with a prosthetic so he can ditch the wheelchair he gets around in now.

The Memphis, Tenn., native was one of 12 Soldiers who were awarded Purple Hearts during a ceremony Tuesday.

The medal is given to those who are

wounded or killed. The ceremony comes a day after the opening of a multi-million dollar rehabilitation center at Brooke that will primarily treat those Soldiers like Jones who have lost a limb.

Jones, an infantryman with the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 5th

See Heart Page 2

Purple Heart touches hearts of the community

Heart

From Page 1

Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, was injured by a roadside bomb Dec. 10.

Since then he has been at Brooke getting treatment for his wounds. He lost most of his right leg and received multiple fractures in his left ankle.

He has been getting a "whole lot of support" from family and community members, he said, who have brought him things like blankets, movies and a laptop. In their visits to wounded Soldiers at Brooke, 1st Cavalry officials have found that the troops are overwhelmed by support from the community, said Col. Larry Phelps, 1st Cavalry rear commander. Ceremonies like the one Tuesday help these Soldiers get back into society and move forward with their recovery, he said.

One of those trying to help was a retired lieutenant general and local Association of the U.S. Army chapter president. Don Jones gave each of the Soldiers a ball cap and T-shirt with the 1st Cavalry and Purple Heart emblems.

Members visit wounded Soldiers in San Antonio every other week, Jones said.

It is that kind of community support

that the 1st Cavalry and Multinational Division-Baghdad commander applauded during a taped message shown at Thursday's ceremony. It's that sense of hospitality that makes Fort Hood such a great place to live and work, said Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr.

Several other Fort Hood's VIPs were present - thought not by tape - Thursday to show their gratitude and respect for the wounded soldiers. Wendy Fil, wife of the 1st Cavalry commander, told the Purple Heart recipients she was "grateful and humbled" by their sacrifices during her remarks. Wendy Fil was also on hand to show appreciation to the numerous 1st Cavalry volunteers who have taken care of the families and each other since the division deployed to Iraq.

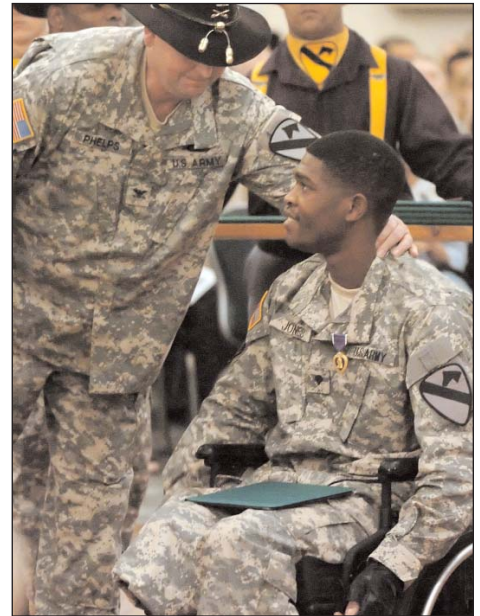
"You are the glue that keeps our Army families together," she said of the honorees.

The event's guest speaker, Brig. Gen. William Grimsley, the 4th Infantry Division's deputy commander for support, said the wounded Soldiers sitting before him set examples with their service and sacrifice.

They are Soldiers and those Soldiers - America's sons and daughters are this country's greatest treasure, Grimsley said.

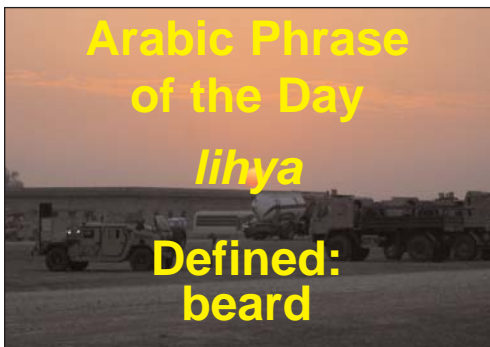
"People in this world are free because




of men like those we just honored," Grimsley said.



(Photo by Steve Traynor, Killeen Daily Herald)

Spc. Dortrie A. Jones, an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gets a pat on the back from the division's rear detachment commander, Col. Larry Phelps following a Purple Heart/Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Jan. 30 at Fort Hood.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report			
	Today	Tomorrow	Sunday
High: 62 Low: 50	High: 62 Low: 37	High: 60 Low: 43	

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Soldiers tear down past to build the future

By Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

HUSAYNIYAH, Iraq - Iraqi Army troops from the 5th Special Troops Company, 2nd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized), Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment and Army engineers from the 92nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division tore down remnants of this city's past Jan. 30 to pave way for its future during a joint operation here.

During the operation, Iraqi Army troops and U.S. Soldiers conducted a cordon and search and then tore down several abandoned buildings from which terrorists conducted operations, hid weapons caches and executed improvised explosive device attacks. The buildings were destroyed to prevent their further use by insurgent forces.

After Iraqi soldiers and artillerymen from Battery A, 1st Bn., 37th FA Regt. cleared the area of civilians near the abandoned buildings, the 92nd Eng. Bn. Soldiers used heavy equipment-bulldozers and back hoes to knock the walls of the buildings down.

"This is a great event for the Iraqi



(Photo by Sgt. Jon Cupp, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Sgt. Adam DeLorey, an engineer with the 92nd Eng. Bn., 3rd Inf. Div., prepares to bulldoze some abandoned buildings in the city of Husayniyah, Iraq Jan.

security forces and the people of Husayniyah," said Maj. John Haubert, an operations officer for 1st Bn., 37th FA Regt. "Any time we can help improve the security of the Iraqi people-it's a good event.

"The people here want to see a safer Husayniyah and a safer Iraq. They don't support insurgents using abandoned buildings in their town to harm Iraqi civilians, Iraqi security forces or coalition forces."

Haubert, a native of Fort Lewis, Wash., added that building up the security of the area will also help Iraqi and coalition forces as they continue bringing future projects into the city.

Working with the Iraqis, U.S. civil affairs units and others, the Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 37 FA Regt. have already helped bring in several projects aimed at improving the quality of life for the people of Husayniyah.

These on-going projects have included providing gravel for roads, rewiring the city's powerlines, a new Husayniyah fire station, a new city council building, sewage systems and providing area schools with supplies, heaters, air conditioners and water purification systems.

Spc. Jeff Thompson, a field artilleryman with Battery A, said he understands the underlying importance of clearing the Husayniyah landscape of havens for insurgents.

"When you look into the faces of the children and see them happy, it makes you see how important and worthwhile the things are that we do here," said Thompson, who hails from Grand Island, Neb. "Protecting them is protecting Iraq's future and what we did today gives the terrorists one less place to hide--one less place from which they can harm someone, especially these children who are out here playing everyday."

Lynchburg, Ohio native Pfc. Daniel Shepherd, also an artilleryman in Thompson's battery echoed his sentiments.

"This is a just cause, and gives us the chance to work with the Iraqis to rid them of terrorist threats," said Shepherd.

Thompson added that, he always looks forward to working the IA troops and hopes to continue cooperating with them.

Baghdad in Brief

MND-B aircraft engage insurgents

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad aircraft engaged to insurgent teams placing roadside bombs northwest of the Iraqi capital Jan. 31.

The first incident occurred at about 4:30 p.m. when a three-man insurgent team was spotted planting an explosive device in a road. The insurgents were engaged in their vehicle by various indirect fire from coalition forces. The vehicle was destroyed.

Three hours later, fixed-wing and rotary aircraft assets positively identified six insurgents placing what appeared to be a roadside bomb into a hole and run a command wire back to their fighting position next to the road.

Rotary aircraft assets engaged the insurgent team. Four insurgents were killed.

Golden Dragons detain terrorist suspects

RUSHDI MULLAH, Iraq - Multi-National - Division troops detained 10 suspected terrorists and seized a weapons cache west of Rushdi Mullah, Iraq Jan. 30.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment "Golden Dragon," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division detained three suspected terrorists and found caches while conducting a patrol.

During the patrol, Soldiers of the 2-14th noticed five men in a Bongo truck approach a suspected terrorist safe house.

When the Soldiers tried to detain the men, two of them ran away. The Soldiers detained the other three.

In the truck were eight AK-47s, a medium machine gun and a fake Iraqi police badge.

The three suspects are being held for further questioning.

Mechanics keep coalition forces moving

By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE UNION III, Baghdad - Mechanics from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, have been setting the pace for how a support platoon operates.

When they took over operations from the 4th BCT, 4th Infantry Division, the platoon was already set behind by more than 30 vehicles in need of repair. Not only did they catch up on their own vehicles, they've taken on the job of servicing more than 700 vehicles from all the different coalition elements on the base. How do they do it? Hard work, long hours and pride in their mission.

"Most of the auto mechanics we have, take a lot of pride in the work that they do ... not only turning out product for the battalion but for all the other people on the FOB," said Warrant Officer Shane Steele,



Spc. John Samson from HHC, 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., repairs a wheel-hub assembly at the battalion's motor pool on FOB Union III.

the 3-82 mechanic technician.

The 19-Soldier platoon maintains more than 100 vehicles just for the battalion. Humvees, cargo haulers and the battalion's claim to fame: the massive Paladin.

While many of the mechanics never touch a mobile howitzer, many have never even worked on a humvee before becoming a part of 3-82.

Pfc. Justin Cassella from Fairmont, W.V. said that although he's a generator mechanic, working on the armored humvee gives him a good opportunity to learn.

"I worked on vehicles before I joined the military," Cassella said. "I didn't want to do it again, but this gives me good experience. I learn more and more every day."

His platoon sergeant cited good attitudes like Cassella's, as one of the main reasons the shop is so successful.

"Dedication and hard work are just what these guys are made of," said Sgt. 1st Class Carlton Parkhurst, a Sarasota, Fla. native. "The best thing is, is they catch on quick. You show them how to do something once and they got it."

On any given day, the Soldiers could see a plethora of different tasking. Sometimes it's scheduled maintenance. Sometimes it's a broken down vehicle. But Steele said the Soldiers are flexible enough to handle anything.

Parkhurst reminisced about a time he was a private and he said "I'm a Paladin mechanic." Someone else quipped, "No, you're just a mechanic."

Steele said now that they've brought all the vehicles back up to standard, the shop has begun its normal maintenance schedule on all the battalion's trucks. He said usually, every three days another four trucks will come in for a quarterly inspection or an annual inspection to keep them in fighting shape.

Even the Georgian Army soldiers stationed on the base have reaped the benefits of the shop's "can-do" attitude. Steele said the Georgians' trucks went from getting no maintenance, to getting serviced, to having a fully-operational force since the 3-82 mechanics arrived about a month ago.

Although the shop's mission seems large already, they still have duties other



(Photos by Spc. Alexis Harrison 2-1st Cav. Public Affairs)

Pfc. Justin Cassella, a mechanic from HHC, 3rd Bn., 82nd FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., stretches to check some hoses on a humvee at Forward Operating Base Union III.

than repairing trucks and tracks. They still have soldierly duties to fulfill.

"The biggest challenge we have is everyday missions like FOB security and troop- to-task missions on top of our heavy workload," Steele said. "Just trying to keep the balance of the right amount of people in the motor pool while maintaining everything else the battalion needs along with the maintenance we already do is tough, but we get it done."

Sometimes working well into the night is just a part of the routine the shop goes through.

Although they work long hours, they still find time to work on projects that are for the lighter side of life.

Sgt. John Klempnow, the battalion welder from Detroit, has been putting together a dune buggy of sorts from spare parts and steel. He also takes on projects like the flagpole that stands in front of the palace at FOB Prosperity.

Steele said he's heard nothing but rave reviews for his shop. Humbly, he said it's all thanks to the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers doing their jobs correctly.

Where has our childhood imagination gone?

By Pfc. William Hatton
7th MPAD

Is there much difference between a kid's movie and a modern fairy tale? I watched a movie recently that I would consider a modern day fairytale, and although it had moments of fantasy and simple nature, this movie was more than just a kiddie flick. Even though critics gave the movie bad reviews, the movie I enjoyed greatly was M. Night Shyamalan's film *Lady in the Water*.

I don't think a fairy tale necessarily has to be geared towards children. Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a story with fairies and a mystical element. I wouldn't consider that a children's story.

Shyamalan has truly proven himself to be a great storyteller and filmmaker. His films leave viewers to use their imagination, and at the same time grow fascinated with his films.

Of all the movies I've seen of his, the monster on the screen wasn't what frightened me the most, it was the images and thoughts brought to mind.

Most people's problem with his movies are they have an 'I got you' type ending. What makes great movies elite is when the viewer has no idea what is going to happen next, or not knowing what is going to happen in the end. Predictability is what makes films mediocre, at best.

DVD Hunt

Pfc. William Hatton



Half the fun in watching a movie is trying to figure out how its going to end.

I do have to say that *Lady in the Water* is unlike Shyamalan's other movies in that it's not as scary as his previous films, but the creativity and ingenuity are still the same. This film is more a contemporary mystic fable, big bad wolf included.



(Warner Bros. Pictures)

Bryce Dallas Howard and Paul Giamatti in "The Lady in the Water"

In the film, Cleveland Heap is played by Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*, *American Splendor*). He's a superintendent at an apartment complex filled with very colorful and fascinating tenants. Late one night as he's getting ready for bed, Heap hears someone in the pool. While investigating the noise, he finds Story, Bryce Dallas Howard (*The Village*), a mysterious woman who he'd later find out was a nymph sent to his pool.

The rest of the movie is essentially Heap trying to help Story get back to where she came from with the aid of the lively complex tenants and avoid an evil creature determined to kill her.

Throughout the movie the character development, acting, and the cinematography really makes this movie great. I truly felt happy after watching the film. I really felt a sense of joy that most movies don't provide.

I'd hate to label this movie a "family film" because of the stigma that goes with it, but this movie was innocent and imagination-based.

All and all, this movie was entertaining, enjoyable and inspiring. I give it four-and-a-half out of five Golden Spurs.

Check out next week when I tell you whether Jet Li's film 'Unleashed' is a sissy movie, or a decent action flick.



TELEVISION



8:00p.m.

8:30p.m.

9:00p.m.

9:30p.m.

10:00p.m.

10:30p.m.

11:00p.m.

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